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Capital Letter:

Castro's Red Boast Irks K

By RUTH MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON: Allen W. Dulles, America's "master spy" for the past eight years, believes the Kremlin is unhappy about Fidel Castro's blatant admission that he was a Communist even before his power seizure in Cuba.

The scholarly gentleman who has just retired as director of the Central Intelligence Agency unquestionably knows more about the international Communist movement than any other American today.

From his long familiarity with Soviet strategy, he finds indications that the Russians would have preferred to keep Castro's true colors under wraps.

Dulles, who began his career in public service under President Woodrow Wilson, sees a positive advantage for our side in Castro's boastful confession. Even the most vocal defenders of Castroism among Latin American leaders are now grudgingly coming to see that if the movement came to their country, they would be out.

The pipe-puffing, philosophical brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles has a bit more leisure now to take a long look at the world's problems, although he still occupies a suite at CIA while sorting out a 10-year accumulation of state and personal papers.

He considers communism a greater threat to the world today than when President Truman brought him into the CIA as deputy director at the close of World War II. He thinks the Kremlin's problems are at least as overpowering, however, as our own.

In South America, for instance, no Communist Party is strong enough to attempt a take-over of government, despite a decade of concerted Soviet effort in that area.

The Reds regard Africa as a gold mine for Communist infiltration, because they realize that their greatest opportunity lies with new, weak, in-

effective governments. Nonetheless they have found great difficulty in manipulating African leaders.

A basic trouble with Africa, Dulles feels, is that it is chopped up into too many countries for economic stability. The old colonial borders were often artificially defined, and failed to reflect ethnic divisions for national interest.

He thinks the criteria which the United Nations originally meant for new nations to meet, before being admitted as UN members, has too often been lost sight of in recent years.

Dulles considers the Indian invasion of Cuba a very disappointing and tragic development, in an age when we have tried to work for rule by law rather than force.

Berlin he regards as the iron test of our firmness. He thinks the Soviets are deliberately trying to focus attention on the Berlin crisis, while working doubly hard on the flanks of the whole ideological and political battleground, from Laos and South Viet Nam to The Congo, Cuba and Latin America.

The Red leaders are trying to capitalize on the current rash of revolutionary outbursts around the globe, but Dulles points out that no country has ever freely adopted communism. That form of government has never been voted in by honest elections, nor by the free and unfettered will of the people. Always it has come by force and violence.

The remarkable man who played an exciting espionage role in World War II, and who will shortly publish a book on the surrender in northern Italy, believes there are too many pessimists around. He personally has never accepted the view that we are in a losing contest with the Soviets.

He thinks we can win, but we have to prepare for a long pull by maintaining military strength, and furthering our development in the ideological, economic and informational fields.

Hearst Headline Service

Bob Considine is vacationing. His column, "On the Line," will be resumed upon his return.



MONTGOMERY